Sarah Hudson

From: Gary S. Engelson
Sent: Friday, October 29, 2004 9:47 AM
To: 'Marie.Ubiles@uspto.gov'
Cc: Sarah Hudson; Judith Simen; Docketing
Subject: U.S. Patent Application No. 09/971,833; Our File I0303-7000

Dear Ms. Ubiles,

Thank you for holding a telephone interview with us last week. As you requested, we have compiled a summary of the discussion in the written description that we think supports our position concerning the claim language "at least one digit."

The written description explains at page 5, lines 20-33 that the conference ID may be divided into two portions which may, in turn, be used to generate various strings of digits. No restriction is placed on the length of the conference ID or the strings generated by dividing. Indeed, the table and discussion at page 8 gives examples of mappings, showing how, in different circumstances, a PIN/conference ID can be created from different strings of digits. This section also explains that no string is required to be of any particular length and that the mappings can be applied to any number of digits.

Throughout the spec it is explained that the invention is not limited to the specific examples given and that any of the mappings described can be applied to PINS/telephone numbers and conference IDs having any number of digits. Although the limiting case of the conference ID being two digits in length is not explicitly described in the specification, the examples that are given explain how one would map that two digit conference ID to a PIN (that may be one or more digits, depending on the mapping used) and to assign a telephone number, which again may have more digits, depending on the mapping used. For example, a one digit input sequence could be mapped to a seven digit telephone number. The written description explains (on pages 5,7 and 8) that part of the conference ID may form part of a telephone number that is assigned (in other words, the telephone number is derived from the conference ID through a mapping, but does not have to comprise the exact same digits as does the conference ID, and vice versa). On page 7, an example is given of a mapping where the conference ID is made to have more digits that those derived from the telephone number. Similarly, the conference ID could have fewer digits.

The person skilled in this art would certainly not conclude that the written description describes every example that may possibly work, but rather would understand that the written description clearly enables them to make and use embodiments of the invention including the concept that a conference ID can be mapped to a PIN and telephone number (an vice versa) through some predetermined mapping that is independent of the number of digits contained in any of the PIN, the telephone number and the conference ID. The concept described in the indicated passages of the written description clearly ranges from the limiting case of a single-digit telephone number and a single-digit PIN to cases where either the telephone number or the PIN are arbitrarily large.

Thank you for considering the telephone interview and this submission,
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